for its biological activities in experimental models as well as clinical settings. The plant is reported to have anti-fertility, hypoglycaemic, anti-inflammatory, antimalarial, antimicrobial and antifungal activities. A contraceptive gel based on Neem extract is undergoing clinical trials in the country.

(b) Neem is popular in many countries of the world as a bio-pesticide, soil conditioner and for use in cosmetics and skin care products.

(c) According to the Controller General of Patents, Design and Trademark, so far 21 Neem related Indian patents have been granted to various Government institutions like Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Indian Council of Agriculture Research, IIT, Mumbai, CCR&D of Ministry of Defence and National Research Development Corporation etc. Indian institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad has 5 International patents on Neem seed products/formulations and the tecnology has been delivered to several small scale industries for commercial exploitation.

**Paramedical and Physiotherapy Council Bill**

3434. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN:
SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) wether it is a fact that Government propose to bring the Paramedical and Physiotherapy Council Bill, 2005 in the ensuing session of Parliament;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the same bill was scheduled to be introduced in the last session but in view of the representations expressing strong dissatisfaction by physiotherapists and MPs, the Bill was not introduced;

(c) whether Government have considered the suggestions of MPs and physiotherapists and propose to bring the Bill after incorporating the desired changes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Government are examing the proposal to introduce two different Bills—

one to regulate Paramedical discipline and another to regulate Physiotherapy discipline.

**TB prevention measures**

3435. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tuberculosis remains one of the serious public health problem in the country;

(b) if so, the number of persons died of this disease during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the number of persons presently effected by this disease;

(d) whether Government have taken any steps for the treatment of the patients;

(e) whether Government propose to take any steps for total elimination of this dreaded disease on the lines of successful polo vaccine campaign; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) State-wise detail of deaths reported during the last 3 years under Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP), due to TB among patients registered for treatment is given at Statement-I (*See* below).

(c) It is estimated that every year, about 18 lakh new cases are occurring in the country of which approximately 8 lakhs are new smear positive and, therefore, highly infectious.

A Statement-II indicating State-wise details of patients detected and put on treatment under the Programme during the year 2004 is enclosed.

(d) To control the problem of TB, Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) is being implemented in the country since year 1997 in a phased manner. Under the Programme, Drugs are provided under observation and patients are monitored so that they complete their treatment. Drugs are provided free of cost in patient-wise boxes. Presently, about 1067 million